

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising:

providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR);

searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;

providing search results; ~~and~~

wherein the VCR includes a common content model and namespace; and wherein each one of the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) compatible with the VCR and such that the SPI interfaces between the VCR and the content repositories.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein searching the VCR includes:

searching each of the plurality of content repositories.

4. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein:

the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

5. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein providing search results includes:

combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories.

6. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein providing search results includes:

caching the search results.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a VCR includes:

extending the content model to include information in the plurality of content repositories; and

wherein the namespace spans the plurality of content repositories.

8. (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein:

the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of content repositories.

9. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein:

the VCR includes a set of content information and a set of schema information.

10. (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein searching the VCR for information includes:

searching the set of content information and the set of schema information.

11. (Original): A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising:

providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR);

searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;

providing search results; and

wherein each one of the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) compatible with the VCR and such that the SPI interfaces between the VCR and the content repositories.

12. (Original): The method of claim 11 wherein searching the VCR includes:

searching each of the plurality of content repositories.

13. (Original): The method of claim 11 wherein:

the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean

operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

14. (Original): The method of claim 11 wherein providing search results includes:
combining the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories.

15. (Original): The method of claim 11 wherein providing search results includes:
caching the search results.

16. (Original): The method of claim 11 wherein providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a VCR includes:
extending a VCR content model to include information in the plurality of content repositories; and
providing a hierarchical namespace spanning the plurality of content repositories.

17. (Original): The method of claim 16 wherein:
the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of content repositories.

18. (Original): The method of claim 11 wherein:
the VCR includes a set of content information and a set of schema information.

19. (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein searching the VCR for information includes:
searching the set of content information and the set of schema information.

20.- 28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently amended): A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising: ~~A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium, comprising:~~

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to provide for the representation of a plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR);

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to search the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to provide search results; and

wherein each one of the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) compatible with the VCR and such that the SPI interfaces between the VCR and the content repositories.

30. (Currently amended): The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29, further comprising:

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to search each of the plurality of content repositories.

31. (Currently amended): The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29 wherein:

the search expression can include at least one of: a logical expression, a Boolean operator, a nested expression, an object name, a function/method call, a mathematical function, a mathematical operator, a string operator, an image operator, and Structured Query Language (SQL).

32. (Currently amended): The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29, further comprising:

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to combine the results of searching each one of the plurality of content repositories.

33. (Currently amended): The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29, further comprising:

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to cache the search results.

34. (Currently amended): The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29, further comprising:

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to extend a VCR content model to include information in the plurality of content repositories; and

~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to provide a hierarchical namespace spanning the plurality of content repositories.

35. (Currently amended): The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 34 wherein:
the content model provides a uniform representation of content for the plurality of
content repositories.
36. (Currently amended): The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29 wherein:
the VCR includes a set of content information and a set of schema information.
37. (Currently amended): The method ~~computer data signal~~ of claim 29, further comprising:
~~a code segment~~ including instructions in a code segment to search the set of content
information and the set of schema information.